Today's News - March 27, 2007

NEA director of design heading to private sector. — Evacuation barriers offer lessons for planning in general. — The demise of the once-heralded cul-de-sac. — Calatrava's latest twist on Chicago Spire - still tweaking, "still isn't cooked yet (+ pix & video). — A WTC by Koolhaas possible for Oslo's inner harbor. — Foster beats off a "star-studded shortlist" to win Motor City in Spain. — Snahetta gets Serpentine as Otto design put on hold. — A 40 Under 40 winner gets Olympic park nod. — Gardner gives (mostly) thumbs-ups to two Brooklyn projects. — A reassessment of Seattle Library: "raw, confusing, impersonal, uncomfortable, oppressive, theatrical and exhilarating." — Utzon's abilities still under fire: is his name being put "ahead of the integrity of the building"? — Piano bows out of Boston tower project (though his design may be "implemented" - huh?). — Papa Hemingway's Cuban estate gets a much-needed facelift, but needs more (Americans want to help, but can't).

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NEA Director of Design Jeff Speck to Resign in May: City planner heading back to planning cities.- ArchNewsNow

Op-Ed: Barriers To Planning: Lessons From Katrina: The barriers that hindered [evacuation] efforts in New Orleans apply not only to evacuation planning, but to planning in general. By Thomas W. Sanchez and Marc Brenman-PLANetizen

Planners go 'round and around over cul-de-sacs: Once a homeowner's dream, the dead-end street is falling out of favor everywhere -- except Southern California. City planners shun them. New urbanists hate them. Boulder, Colo., all but banned them. Los Angeles Times

Calatrava unveils tower's latest twist: ...still tweaking—and he may never stop until construction starts...has improved immeasurably...it still isn't cooked yet. By Blair Kamin [images, video]- Chicago Tribune

Skyline could have a brave new look: Latest design of Chicago Spire similar to birthday candle...once again as skinny as a birthday taper, topped off after dark with a shaft of light...will mark nothing less than the birth of an entirely new Chicago skyline. By Kevin Nance — Santiago Calatrava- Chicago Sun-Times

Plans revealed for a 'World Trade Center' in Oslo: ...to be built behind the Nobel Peace Center, on prime property at Oslo's inner harbour. -- Koolhaas/OMA; Space Group [image]- Aftenposten (Norway)

Foster + Partners motors ahead in Spain: ...has beaten off a star-studded shortlist to win a commission for a new Motor City in Aragon... [images]- Building (UK)

Serpentine Gallery Delays Pavilion Design by Frei Otto in Favor of Snøhetta's Thorsen and Olafur Eliasson- Architectural Record

Olympic park win for 5th Studio: Lea Valley park [in Thames Gateway] to rival London's great parks in size -- Latz + Partner. Latz + Partner; Colliers CRE; Leaside Regeneration; The Ecology Partnership; Whitby Bird; Davis Langdon- Building (UK)

Brooklyn Architecture To the Rescue: ...new Office of Emergency Management...seems an unusually welcoming and pleasant pile, when you consider its dire functions; ...Brooklyn Museum's new Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art...Whatever one thinks of [Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party"] the structure that now envelops it is stylish as well as functional. By James Gardner -- Swanke Hayden Connell; Susan T. Rodriguez/Polshek Partnership- New York Sun

How it really stacks up: Three years after the Seattle Central Library opened to starbursts of praise...It's time for a reconsideration...feels, in varying places, raw, confusing, impersonal, uncomfortable, oppressive, theatrical and exhilarating. By Lawrence W. Cheek -- Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

<u>Visionary's Vision Doubted: Architect of Sydney Opera House Under Fire Yet Again — Joern Utzon; Jan Utzon; Philip Drew; Richard Johnson/Johnson Pilton Walker (AP)-Washington Post</u>

Renzo Piano Leaves Boston Project: ...has withdrawn from a project to build an 80-story tower that would have involved the demolition of a 1960 building by Paul Rudolph...CBT Architects intended to "implement Piano's design, making appropriate refinements as needed during the design review process."- New York Times

In Cuba, they still remember 'Papa' Hemingway: Castro's government has spent \$1 million to restore Hemingway's shabby baronial estate [Finca Vigia] to its old glory [images, links]- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
-- Platt Byard Dovell White: Green-Wood Columbarium, Brooklyn, NY
-- Book: Architecture of the Air: The Sound and Light Environments of Christopher Janney

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